



May 25 Meeting Set To Discuss Contamination

Cossell/Vermont Neighborhood Ground Water Contamination Site
Speedway, Indiana May 2010

You are invited

EPA, Marion County Health Department and Indiana Department of Environmental Management staff will be available to share information and answer questions about underground water contamination in the Cossell/Vermont Street Neighborhood in Speedway. Staff will be on hand for an informal open house at 6 p.m. with a public meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. We hope you will be able to attend.

Date: Tuesday, May 25

Time: Open house at 6 p.m.
Public meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Thatcher Park Gym
4649 W. Vermont St.
Indianapolis

For more information, visit the following Web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/cossellvermont

Representatives from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Marion County Health Department and Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be available Tuesday, May 25, to share information and answer questions about underground water contamination in the Cossell/Vermont Street Neighborhood in Speedway. Staff will be on hand for an informal open house at 6 p.m. with a public meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Both sessions will be at the Thatcher Park Gym, 4649 W. Vermont St., Indianapolis.

During sampling of neighborhood drinking water, Marion County Health Department found the presence of high levels of vinyl chloride in the wells of three residences. Vinyl chloride is a man-made chemical used in making a variety of plastic and vinyl products. A ground water plume (an underground mass of contamination) contains the vinyl chloride, but the source of the plume has not yet been identified. Ground water is the environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. The likely source of vinyl chloride in this case is from the breakdown of commercial solvents. Vinyl chloride can cause cancer if people are exposed to high concentrations of the chemical for long periods. Vinyl chloride is in a family of hazardous chemicals called volatile organic compounds or VOCs. VOCs evaporate easily and can dissolve in water.

The area of the contamination is residential and bounded by West Vermont Street on the south, Holt Road on the east, West Alley 700N on the north, and Grand Avenue on the west in Speedway. Residences in this area do not have access to municipal water and depend on ground water in their private wells for drinking.

Water treatment systems were installed at the three residences as a temporary measure to reduce vinyl chloride levels. In addition, investigators are also checking for another environmental problem called "vapor intrusion." Soil vapor from under the three homes was collected to test for harmful gases trapped between dirt particles. The soil vapor tests show another VOC and commercial solvent called tetrachloroethylene (PCE) is present. VOCs dissolved in ground water often give off gases that can rise through the soil and seep into homes through cracks and holes in foundations. The gases can then cause hazardous indoor air pollution. More air sampling from inside the houses needs to be scheduled and if harmful concentrations are detected a simple vapor removal system can be installed in the homes.

For more information

For more information about the May 25 meeting and availability session on the Cossell/Vermont Neighborhood water contamination issue or for questions or comments, you can contact these federal and local team members:

EPA

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Community Involvement Coordinator
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EPA Region 5 toll-free 800-621-8431,
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

Marion County Health Department

Pam Thevenow
Marion County Health Department
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**COSSCELL/VERMONT NEIGHBORHOOD GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION SITE:
May 25 Meeting Set To Discuss Contamination**

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Superfund Division (SI-7J)
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Chicago, IL 60604-3590

